Information for Contributors

The Editors of *Science*

Papers published in *Science* often receive far more attention than papers published in specialty journals. As a consequence, the rate of submission of papers is high—about 5000 manuscripts are submitted each year. The rejection rate of about 80 percent contrasts with that of most specialty journals, which is usually about 30 percent. Most of the material submitted to *Science* is of good quality and worthy of publication, and virtually all the scientific papers are eventually published somewhere. In selecting papers for *Science*, the editors must consider the needs of a broad audience. Insofar as the input of manuscript permits, preference is given to items that seem to be of general significance.

General Information

Four types of signed papers are considered: Articles, Reports, Letters, and Technical Comments. The author's membership in the AAAS is not a factor in selection. Papers are considered with the understanding that they have not been published and are not under consideration elsewhere. Authors will usually be notified of acceptance, rejection, or need for revision in 6 to 8 weeks (Reports) or 8 to 10 weeks (Articles).

Outside reviews. Almost all Articles and Reports, including those solicited by the editor, are sent to two or more outside referees for evaluation. Referees suggested by authors are used at the discretion of the editors. Papers that depend on statistical inferences for their conclusions may be sent to statisticians (in addition to other referees) for review.

Length limits. Papers that exceed the length limits cannot be handled expeditiously and in some cases will be returned without review. The limits are stated below in number of pages based on standard-size pages (8½ by 11 inches) typed with double spacing throughout (including the references and notes) and with 1-inch margins.

1) Articles: Up to 20 pages of text, including the references and notes, and one table or figure for approximately every three manuscript pages.

2) Reports: Up to seven pages of text, including references and notes, and two tables or figures that together will occupy no more than half a printed page.

3) Letters: Up to 250 words.

4) Technical Comments: Up to two pages of text, including references and notes.

Selection of Manuscripts

1) Articles: About half the Articles published in *Science* are solicited by the editor. Both solicited and unsolicited Articles undergo outside and in-house review. Articles are expected to (i) provide a review of new developments in one field that will be of interest to readers in other fields, (ii) describe a current research problem or a technique of interdisciplinary significance, or (iii) present a study of some aspect of the history, logic, philosophy, or administration of science or a discussion of science and public affairs. Readers should be able to learn from a technical Article what has been firmly established and what are significant unresolved questions; speculation should be kept to a minimum. Preference is given to Articles that are well written, well organized, and within the length limit. Balance of subject matter in *Science* is an important consideration when a choice is made between acceptable Articles.

2) Reports: Reports are selected on the basis of reviewers' comments and an in-house review. Reports are expected to contain solid research results or reliable theoretical calculations. Preference is given to those that describe departures or discoveries that will be of broad interdisciplinary interest or of unusual interest to the specialist. In making the final selection, the editors take into consideration (i) the reviewers' comments: reports most likely to be accepted are those that receive persuasive outside reviews favoring publication; (ii) clarity of presentation within the prescribed length limit; and (iii) subject matter in relation to that of other papers on hand. An attempt is made to balance the subjects of Reports so that one discipline is not overrepresented to the exclusion of others.

3) Letters: Letters are selected for their pertinence to material published in *Science* or because they discuss significant problems of interest to most scientists. Letters of a highly technical nature are usually transferred to the Technical Comments section. Letters pertaining to material published in *Science* may correct errors, provide support or agreement, offer different points of view, clarify, or add information. Outside reviewers may be consulted on questions of accuracy. Insinuations and conjecture about another author's motives, abilities, or intelligence are considered inappropriate for publication. The selection of letters is intended to reflect the range of opinions received.

4) Technical Comments: Technical Comments may be selected for publication if they express significant criticisms of papers published in *Science* or offer useful additional information. Technical Comments are usually sent for an opinion to the authors of the original papers before being reviewed. Discussions of minor issues or priority claims are not deemed appropriate, nor are questions that can be resolved by correspondence between the critic and the original authors.

5) Book Reviews: The selection of books to be reviewed and of reviewers is made by the editors.

Submission of Manuscripts

Submit an original and two duplicates of each manuscript together with a letter of transmittal giving:

1) the name(s) and telephone number(s) of the author(s);

2) the title of the paper and a statement of its main point;

3) the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and fields of interest of four to six persons in North America but outside your institution who are qualified to referee your paper;

4) the names of colleagues who have reviewed your paper; and

5) the fields of interest of readers who may want to read your paper.

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Manuscript Preparation

Typing. Use double spacing throughout the text, tables, figure legends, and references and notes.

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/fgml0000

Units of measure. Use metric units. If measurements were made in English units, give metric equivalents.

Symbols and abbreviations. Define all symbols, abbreviations, and acronyms.

References and notes. Number references and notes in the order in which they are cited in the text. Place references cited only in tables or figure legends after the text references. Gather all acknowledgments into a single, brief statement at the end. Use *Bibliographic Guide for Editors & Authors* (American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C.) for abbreviations of journal titles. For journals not listed there provide the full title. Use the following forms:

For a journal paper: H. Smith, *Am. J. Physiol.* **98**, 279 (1931).

For a book: F. Dachille and R. Roy, *Modern Very High Pressure Techniques* (Butterworth, London, 1961), pp. 163–180.

For a paper in a compilation: F. Dachille and R. Roy, in *Reactivity of Solids*, J. H. de Boer, Ed. (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1960), p. 502.

For unpublished material: A. Giraud, paper presented at the American Nuclear Society Conference, Washington, D.C., November 1976.

Illustrations. For each illustration submit three copies of a quality suitable for reproduction. Label each on the back with the name of the author and the figure number. Plan figures for the smallest printed size consistent with clarity. Color may be used if necessary but authors are billed accordingly. Cite all illustrations in the text and provide a brief legend for each.

Tables. Type each table on a separate sheet, give it a number and title, and cite it by number in the text. Give each column a heading. Indicate units of measure in parentheses in the heading for each column, and do not change the unit of measure within a column.

Equations and formulas. Use quadruple spacing around equations and formulas that are to be set off from the text. Define all symbols.

Special Requirements and Procedures

1) Articles: Provide a title of one or two lines of not more than 26 characters and spaces each; a brief author note giving your position and address; and a summary of 50 to 100 words. The summary should convey to the general reader the main point of the paper and outline the results or conclusions. The introduction should portray the broad significance of the work, and the whole text should be intelligible to scientists in different disciplines. Explain all technical terms likely to be known in only one field. Insert short subheadings at appropriate places in the text to mark your main ideas. Provide a reference list in accord with *Science* style. Reference lists should not be exhaustive; citation of a single review article can often replace many references. A maximum of 40 references is suggested.

2) Reports: Provide a title of one or two lines of not more than 54 characters and spaces each, and an abstract of 50 to 75 words. The abstract and the first portion of the report should portray for the general reader the results described and their significance. The body of the report should be intelligible to scientists in other fields of expertise. Complete documentation need not be presented but should be available in cited references.

3) Letters: Letters should be short (up to 250 words) and to the point; they should be carefully phrased, free of technical jargon, and nonrepetitive. When a Letter refers to an Article published in *Science* the original author is usually given an opportunity to reply. Letters are frequently shortened and edited. Letters are acknowledged by postcard; authors are notified if their letters are accepted for publication. Letters must be typed with double spacing.

4) Technical Comments: Technical Comments on Reports or Articles are published at the end of the Reports section. When a Technical Comment is accepted for publication the authors of the original paper are usually given an opportunity to reply.

5) Book Reviews: Instructions accompany review copies when they are sent to reviewers.

Printing and Publication

Editing. Before being sent to the printers, papers are edited to improve accuracy and effectiveness of communication. When changes are needed because the author's meaning is not clear, the editor may consult the author by telephone; when the editing is extensive, the manuscript may be returned to the author for approval or further adjustment before the type is set.

Proofs. One set of galley proofs is provided for each paper. Alterations should be kept to a minimum and marked only on the proofs. Extensive alterations may delay publication.

Scheduling. Papers are not scheduled for publication until *Science* has received corrected galley proofs from the authors. The median delay between acceptance of papers and mailing of galley proofs to authors is 4 to 8 weeks (allowing for editing and typesetting); the median delay between receipt of authors' galley proofs by *Science* and publication is 4 to 6 weeks (allowing for proofreading, layout, and paging). There may be additional delays in publication for papers with tables or figures that present problems in layout and for papers accompanying cover pictures.

Reprints. An order blank for reprints accompanies proofs.

Cover Photographs

Particularly good photographs that pertain to a paper being submitted will be considered for use on the cover. Submit prints (*not* slides, negatives, or transparencies) together with the manuscript, and indicate in the letter of transmittal that a possible cover picture is enclosed.

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